DESCRIPTION OF A PROPOSED NEW RACE OF THE KILLDEER FROM THE COAST OF PERU.

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

COLLECTIONS received during 1919, by the American Museum from its Peruvian representative, Mr. Harry Watkins, contain fourteen specimens of a Killdeer which breeds on the coast of Peru, at least from Lima to near the Ecuadorian boundary. Killdeer have been before recorded from Peru,[1] from Colombia,[2] Ecuador,[3] Paraguay,[3] and Chile,[3] but it has been assumed that these birds were winter visitants from North America. It seems, however, not improbable that they were resident birds, as, beyond question, are our specimens from Peru. These represent adults at the beginning and the end of the post-nuptial molt, and young in fresh juvenal plumage and in the down.

This discovery places the Killdeer, distributionally, in the group of Plover to which *Oethodromus wilsonius* and *Ægialitis collaris*[4] belong and suggests that our northern Killdeer is derived from the South American form. Of *Ægialitis collaris*, Ridgway remarks that South American specimens "much more often (in fact usually) have the cinnamon on head and neck present and also more pronounced,"[5] and it is in the greater extent of the rusty margins of the upperparts that the Peruvian Killdeer may be distinguished from the North American and West Indian forms. This difference is sufficiently pronounced and, so far as our material goes, constant to warrant the recognition of the Peruvian bird as a well-marked race for which I propose the name

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[1] Scl. & Salv., P. Z. S., 1868, p. 176 (Tambo Valley, southwestern Peru); Taczanowski, *Ibid.*, 1879, p. 244 (Pacasmayo).

[2] Scl. & Salv., P. Z. S., 1879, p. 547 (Medellin).

[3] Sharpe, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., XXIV, pp. 247, 742.

[4] In default of material to consider the conclusions in regard to genera reached by Ridgway (Bull. U. S. N. M., 50, Pt. VIII), I follow here the nomenclature of the British Museum Catalogue.

[5] Bull. U. S. N. M., 50, Pt. VIII, p. 141.

Oxyechus vociferus peruvianus new subspecies.

Subsp. Char.— Smaller than *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*, agreeing in size with the West Indian *Oxyechus vociferus rubidus*, but in post-nuptial plumage differing from them both in the greater extent of the rusty margins of the plumage of the upperparts and, particularly, of the lesser and median wing-coverts.

Type.— No. 163,083, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♂ ad. (fresh post-nuptial plumage, the outer primary of the nuptial plumage still present), Paletillas, alt. 1550 ft., northeast of Payta, Prov. Piura, Peru, June 22, 1919; H. Watkins.

Description of Type.— Similar in color to *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus* but all the brown feathers of the plumage, including crown, nape, back, scapulars, tertials, etc. margined with rusty or ochraceous; exposed portions of lesser and median wing-coverts rusty. Wing, 160; tail, 91; tarsus, 31.5; exposed culmen, 19 mm.

Description of fresh Juvenal Plumage. —♀ juv., Bequeta, near Lima, Peru, Jan. 22, 1919. Similar to corresponding plumage of *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus.*

Description of Natal Down.— (Two specimens not more than four days old, Paletillas, Peru, June 22, 1919). Similar to corresponding plumage of *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus.*

Specimens examined.— *Oxyechus vociferus peruvianus. Peru:* Paletillas, Piura, 1 ♂ ad., 2 pull. (June 22, 1919); Samate, Piura, 2 ♂♂ ads. (May 30, 1919); Chilaco, Piura, 1 ♂ ad., 1 ♀ ad. (May 27–25); Pilares, Piura, 1 ♂ ad., 1 ♀ ad. (June 16, 1919); Bequeta, Prov. Lima, 2 ♂♂ ads., 2 ♀♀ ads., 1 ♀ juv. (Jan. 22–24, 1919).

Oxycchus vociferus rubidus. West Indies: (Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Porto Rico, Grenada), 18 adults representing both sexes and every month but August.

Oxyechus vociferus vociferus. A large series from throughout the United States, taken in every month and representing all plumages.

Remarks.— The seven adult specimens on which this proposed race is chiefly based, were taken in the Province of Piura from May 25 to June 22. All are essentially in the same stage of plumage, having just completed, or nearly completed, the post-nuptial molt, all but one still having the outer one or two primaries of the nuptial plumage. The series shows little variation in color all having the upperparts strongly margined with rusty, as in the type. These birds are comparable with August and September specimens from the eastern United States. The latter often have the upper parts

margined with rusty, but never, so far as my observations go, to the extent shown by the Peruvian bird. Some comparable North American birds, on the other hand, show almost no trace of this rusty margining, and, representing the extreme of difference between *peruvianus* and *vociferus vociferus*, may perhaps indicate the type of coloration toward which the latter is diverging. That this divergence is of comparatively recent occurrence in the life of the species, is suggested by the inconstance of the features which characterize it, and also by the fact that in juvenal plumage the Peruvian and North American forms are alike.

The West Indian form appears to differ from true *vociferus* only in size, and consequently, is not intermediate in color between it and *peruvianus*.

As stated above, two downy young but a few days from the egg, were taken at Paletillas, June 22, and we may accept these birds, in connection with the seven adults from the Paletillas region which are completing their post-nuptial molt, as conclusive evidence that the Peruvian Killdeer nests in May and June. But examination of the Bequeta specimens shows that May and June by no means constitute the entire nesting season of the Killdeer in Peru.

Four of the Bequeta specimens, taken January 23 and 24, are adults in the midst of the post-nuptial molt in which wings and tail as well as body feathers, are being renewed. The remaining feathers of the nuptial plumage are much worn and practically without rusty margins; the incoming new plumage is margined with rusty.

The fifth Bequeta specimen, taken January 22, is in fresh juvenal plumage with portions of the natal down still adhering to the ends of the central rectrices and longer upper tail-coverts. Our collection contains specimens which show that in the Killdeer fragments of the natal down may remain at the end of the central retrices until the spring following the bird's birth — a surprising fact — but the general condition of the plumage of this Bequeta bird with its fresh, narrowly margined dorsal plumage, shows that it is a comparatively young bird, exactly similar, indeed, to August specimens of *vociferus vociferus* from various parts of the United States. Consequently, just as the Piura birds prove that in northwestern Peru the Killdeer breeds in May and June, so the Bequeta

birds prove that in central western Peru the Killdeer breeds in December and January.

The localities in question are only about 450 miles apart. I know of no marked seasonal difference between them, and am quite at loss to account satisfactorily for this variation in nesting dates. Possibly the uniform climate, both as regards temperature and rainfall, prevailing on the coast of Peru, militates, among Killdeer, as it apparently does among the Cormorants and Pelicans of the Guano Islands off the coast,[1] against the establishment of a definite breeding season. Or we may have here a case similar to that of the Brown Pelicans in Florida which on the Gulf coast begin to nest in April and on the Atlantic coast in November. Further collections and field studies are required to settle this interesting question

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DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES OF TYRANNIDÆ.

BY CHARLES B. CORY.

Todirostrum beckeri sp. nov.

Type from Base of Serra da Lua, near Boa Vista, Rio Branco, N. Brazil. Male, No. 49,347, Field Museum of Natural History. Collected by R. H. Becker, March 24, 1913.

Description.— Similar to *T. sylvia schistaceiceps* (Sclater) and *T. sylvia griscolum* Todd, but differs from either in the shorter wing, in having the black loral stripe bordered below by a buffy streak, and above by a conspicuous buffy stripe extending from the base of the upper mandible to above the eye. Base of crown and nape olivaceous; greater wing coverts edged with buffy yellow or pale orange yellow; middle wing coverts tipped with same; lesser wing coverts edged with olive green.

Measurements.— Wing, 45; tail, 30; bill, 13 mm.

[1] Habits and Economic Relations of the Guano Birds of Peru, by Robert E. Coker, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, Proc. U. S. N. M., 56, 1919, pp. 449–511.